

Remarks

Claims 10, 11, 13, 49 and 50 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, the applicants have amended claims 10 and 13. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the specification and claims as filed. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Accordingly, claims 10, 11, 13, 49 and 50 remain before the Examiner for consideration.

The amendments to the claims have been made to lend greater clarity to the claimed subject matter and to expedite prosecution. The amendments should not be taken to indicate the applicants' agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejections of record. Favorable consideration of the claims now presented, in view of the remarks and amendments set forth herein, is earnestly solicited.

The applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable claims.

Claims 10, 11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as not complying with the written description requirement. The applicants traverse this ground for rejection to the extent that it might be applied to the claims now presented for examination.

Claims 10 has been amended herein, in accordance with the Examiner's analysis, to recite that the claimed method assesses the likelihood of a colon tumour metastasizing. As noted in the outstanding Office Action, this method finds clear support in the specification as filed.

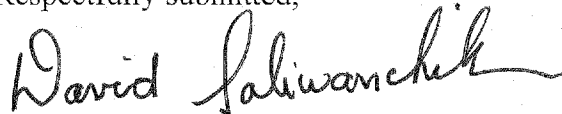
Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

In view of the foregoing remarks and the amendments above, the applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

The applicants also invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Saliwanchik

Patent Attorney

Registration No. 31,794

Phone: 352-375-8100

Fax No.: 352-372-5800

Address: P.O. Box 142950

Gainesville, FL 32614-2950

DRS/la